

Lepidoptera in the South of Ireland

By the Rev. DAVID AGASSIZ*

During the latter half of August 1976 I spent a holiday with my family at Roche's Point, by the lighthouse at the entrance to Cork Harbour. My only previous visit there had been in 1955 from which I remembered the place swarming with Clouded Yellows in that very hot summer. Happily 1976 preserved my memories with splendid weather, even if the Clouded Yellows were fewer in number.

Very little work seems to have been done in this area, especially on the microlepidoptera, although according to Beirne there are a few records listed by Kane from Roche's Point in 1884 and 1901. I have not searched the literature nor collections for records of microlepidoptera since the publication of Beirne's list; therefore I use the term "new" to denote "not included by Beirne", though it does not necessary follow that there is no previous record. On this basis most of my captures constitute new vice-county records for East Cork (v.c. H.5) and four species are new to Ireland. All records are from Roche's Point unless stated otherwise.

New to Ireland are: *Ptocheuusa paupella* (Zell.), one at Youghal, 20.viii.1976; *Agriphila latistria* (Haw.), one; *Ostrina nubilalis* (Hübner.), a few; and *Heterographis oblitella* (Zell.), fairly common—up to nine per night in an actinic trap.

New records for East Cork are: *Psychoides filicivora* (Meyr.), larvae common from which adults emerged continuously from September to Christmas; *Monopis rusticella* (Hübner.); *Tinea pellionella* (L.); *Caloptilia stigmatella* (Fabr.), bred from *Populus alba*; *Aspilapteryx tringipenella* (Zell.); *Calybites phasianipennella* (Hübner.); *Elachista atricomella* (Stt.); *Endrosis sacitrella* (L.); *Depressaria pastinacella* (Dup.); *D. badiella* (Hübner.); *Aponopterix heracliata* (L.); *A. subpropinquella* (Stt.); *A. arenella* (D. & S.); *A. liturella* (D. & S.); *A. rotundella* (Doug.); *Teleiopsis diffinis* (Haw.); *Caryocolum fraternella* (Doug.); *Eucosma hohenwartiana* (D. & S.); *Epiblema uddmanniana* (L.); *Ancylis badiana* (D. & S.); *Lobesia littoralis* (H. & W.); *Olethreutes lacunana* (D. & S.); *Pandemis heparana* (D. & S.); *Cnephasia interjectana* (Haw.); *Acleris latifasciana* (Haw.); *A. rhombana* (D. & S.); *A. aspersana* (Hübner.); *A. hastiana* (L.), many bred from Whitegate; *Agapeta zoegana* (L.); *Aethes francillana* (Fabr.); *Chrysoteuchia culmella* (L.); *Agriphila tristella* (D. & S.); *Eudonia angustea* Curtis; *E. mercurella* (L.); *Cataclysta lemnata* (L.), from Youghal; *Evergestis forficalis* (L.); *Pyrausta cespitalis* (D. & S.); *Eurrhyncha hortulata* (L.); *Udea elutalis* (D. & S.); *U. prunalis* (D. & S.); *U. ferrugalis* (Hübner.); *Mecyna asinalis* (Hübner.), confirmed as a resident Irish species, also recorded from mid-Cork (v.c. H.4) at about the same time by Dr. A. A. Myers; *Nomophila noctuella* (D. & S.); *Aphomia sociella* (L.); *Pyla fusca* (Haw.); *Homoeosoma carlinella* (Hein.); and *Emmelina monodactyla* (L.).

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Among the macrolepidoptera, one specimen of *Hoplodrina ambigua* (D. & S.) was taken at Youghal, Co. Cork, on 20th August; this species is not included in Baynes' list of Irish Macrolepidoptera. Other more noteworthy species were: *Mythimna straminea* (Treits.) and *Celaena leucostigma* (Hübner) from Youghal; and from Roche's Point: *Orgyia antiqua* (L.), larva; *Euxoa obliqua* (D. & S.); *Hadena luteago barrettii* (Doubl.), larvae; *Cryphia muralis* (Forster)—presumably referable to ssp. *westropi* Cock. & Bull., through the two specimens taken closely resemble some of mine from Cornwall; *Celaena haworthii* (Curtis); *Eupithecia tripunctaria* (H.-S.); and *Epirrita filigrammaria* (H.-S.).

The only significant migrants were one *Agrius convolvuli* (L.) on 24th August, and one *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabr.) on 28th August. *Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner) was very common throughout our stay.

References

- Baynes, E. S. A., 1964. *A Revised Catalogue of Irish Macrolepidoptera*.
 Baynes, E. S. A., 1970. *A Revised Catalogue of Irish Macrolepidoptera, Supplement*.
 Beirne, B. P., 1941. A List of the Microlepidoptera of Ireland. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, XLVII, pp. 53-147.

HELIOTHIS ARMIGERA HBN. (SCARCE BORDERED STRAW). — I took a female of this moth in my m.v. trap here on the 17th October. I kept here alive for over a week, during which time she laid 13 eggs, but unfortunately only one reached the adult state — the moth emerged on the 26th December. — A. F. J. GARDNER, Willows End, Charlecote, near Warwick.

BREEDING A SECOND BROOD OF LYSANDRA CORIDON (PODA.). — I have been breeding *L. coridon* for eight years, and on several occasions when I left some ova on the food-plant, saw signs of feeding during early autumn and upon inspection found small larvae. These larvae are usually discovered in September, and until this year (1976), by keeping them on the potted foodplant and putting them in a greenhouse, I have had no success at rearing them.

In the exceptional summer of 1976, I decided I would make a particular point of trying to obtain a second brood. In mid-July, therefore, I put about 30 newly-laid ova from one of my stocks on to potted *H. comosa* and placed the lot in a greenhouse. I examined these towards the end of August and found six half-grown larvae but that not all the ova had hatched. I continued to keep the larvae in the greenhouse, and they became full-grown in late September. Two of the larvae died when full-grown and became black and squashy; the other four changed to pupae, one of which was deformed and died, but the remaining three produced two butterflies during the last week of October and one in early November. These were a typical male, a typical but crippled female and a very nice female ab. *fowleri* South. — RICHARD REVELS, Top Field Farm, Dunton Lane, Biggleswade, Beds., SG18 8QU.